law abroad or are likely to come under the same ;

(b) whether the usage of these seeds in India is affected by patent law envisaged under GATT treaty ;

(c) the time duration of patents for seeds plants etc. related to agriculture under GATT ;

(d) whether cultivation and transaction of patented seeds amongst farmers is permitted under GATT ;

(e) whether non-farmer's transaction as done by seed corporations, commercial firms would be subjected to patent law under GATT ; and

(f) what is the annual turnover of various type of seeds through traditional farmer channel and commercial channels ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Information on seeds which are under patents in accordance with the patent laws of foreign countries is not available since the Indian patents Act does not provide for patenting of seeds.

(b) to (e) There is no obligation to provide for patenting of seeds in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round. In respect of the option of effective sui generis system for protection of plant varieties no details have been spelt out. It is left to each country to design its plant variety protection law to suit its national requirements. The Agreement does not prohibit Members from providing for the traditional rights of farmers to save, use and exchange seed. Non-farmer transactions in case of protected varieties of seeds would be subject to the conditions governing such transactions in the law that we may enact.

(f) As Government does not maintain information regarding traditional exchanges or regarding private companies transaction, this information is not available.

राजस्थान से हीरे के निर्यात के लिये सुविधाएं

1925. **चौधरी हरि सिंह** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान हीरे के निर्यात के लिये राजस्थान में हीरा उद्योग को क्या-क्या सुविधाएं दी गई हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार का हीरा व्यापार के संवर्धन के लिये जयपुर में हीरा उद्योग परिसर स्थापित करने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) :

(क) सरकार ने देश भर के सभी हीरा निर्यातकों को एक जैसी सुविधाएं दे रखी है और आयात-निर्यात नीति में इनका उल्लेख किया गया है । इसीलिए, राजस्थान सहित किसी भी राज्य के हीरा-निर्यातकों को कोई विशेष सुविधा नहीं दी जाती है ।

(ख) जयपुर में हीरा उद्योग परिसर की स्थापना का सरकार के पास कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Merger of TFAI and TDAI

1926. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to merger the Trade Fair Authority of India and the Trade Development Authority of India into a single organisation ;

(b) whether this decision has been implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The erstwhile Trade Development Authority